

MALAWI: SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS PROJECT

Social Cash Transfer Program Systems Adaptation

OCTOBER 2020



SCTP systems can support scale ups in response to droughts



SCTP is a social protection program that can be leveraged to support scale ups in response to droughts.



Clearly defining and setting up social protection systems ahead of time provides clarity to communities as to who is and isn't eligible.



Gaps in the coverage of existing SCTP systems (MIS, UBR, payments) may prevent these districts being used in the initial phase of scalability.

Key questions

- What districts can we focus on for the initial phase of SCTP scalability based on the system readiness?

Districts with e-payments though manual payment districts can also be included, for example Nsanje and Chikwawa can be considered

- Are there any systems adaptations that we would need to implement over the coming year in these districts?

System integration with service providers

Targeting systems – identifying potential beneficiaries

The Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) is used to target the bottom 10% of households in the income distribution in each district for regular SCTP coverage. The UBR collects households' socio-economic information every 4 years.

UBR COVERAGE	REGISTRATION YEAR	DISTRICTS
50%	2016/17	Karonga, Rumphu, Kasungu, Lilongwe (Rural), Dowa, Ntchisi, Khota Kota, Ntcheu, Chiradzulu, Blantyre
100%	2019/20	Phalombe, Chitipa, Likoma, Salima, Mchinji, Balaka, Mangochi, Chikwawa, Nsanje
	Expected in 2020/21	Neno, Mwanza, Machinga, Mzimba, Mulanje, Zomba, Nkhata Bay, Dedza, Thyolo

- The data in the districts with 50% coverage is outdated and would need new data for HE.
- The progress on collecting data at 100% slowed down due to delays in the revision of the PMT and 7 districts are awaiting validation of the data.



Payment systems – channeling resources to beneficiaries

SCTP payouts are mostly made manually (cash-in-hand) except for two districts, **Balaka and Ntcheu**, where e-payments are made through households' bank accounts following a registration process.

- The period it takes to pay in manual payment depends on the size of the districts. On average smaller districts pay within 5 days and large within 10 days.
- Manual payments would not stop the piloting of scalability mechanism though efforts should be made in harmonizing payments through the SCTP MIS.

SCTP e-payments are also **expected** to be rolled out in four additional districts – Thyolo, Blantyre, Karonga and Nkhotakota.

In response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, e-payments are also being used to provide additional cash support to households in poor urban areas. As part of the Covid Urban Cash Initiative (CUCI), the government of Malawi is looking to close contracts with mobile operators to use mobile money as a delivery mechanism for cash assistance.

- Mobile Money Operators can also be used in rural and this part of the SP payments masterplan since we are looking at a hybrid solution.



Information Systems – SCTP MIS

The SCTP MIS currently includes all households that are beneficiaries of the regular program. The MIS currently includes all households that are beneficiaries of the regular program. It includes specifications on the cash amounts (on average MK9,000) and frequency (every two months) that households receive as part of the regular program.

MIS adaptation:

- Adaptation for VE in Balaka
- Adaptation for Covid-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI)

Planned MIS adaptations: Changes would be needed for the MIS to support automatic generation of payrolls and monitoring of future SCTP scale ups.

- A further adaptation is being considered to include an HE module in the MIS



Systems Maps

UBR 100%



Phalombe, Chitipa, Likoma, Salima,
Mchinji, Balaka, Mangochi,
Chikwawa, and Nsanje

E-payments



Balaka and Ntcheu
(although others could also be
considered, e.g. Chikwawa and
Nsanje)

MIS Adaptations



Balaka (VE), Blantyre City (HE),
Lilongwe City (HE), Zomba City (HE)
and Mzuzu City (HE)